

giant truck-sized loophole that exists in the law that allows many people to avoid paying the taxes and allows the funds to go to nefarious hands.

According to the GAO, Hezbollah raised \$1.5 million from the sale of illegal tobacco in the 5 years 1996 through 2000. The largest case that they found was that millions of dollars of cigarettes were smuggled to Michigan from North Carolina in 1996—seized cigarettes and property and currency worth \$2 million and proceeds that had been transferred to Beirut.

But it's more obviously often smaller bore problems that have been created as well; that if you have people who are increasingly seeking, because of the large amount of taxation that there is on many of these products, a lot of the programs in our States that are funded theoretically from the tax revenues from tobacco are seeing shortfalls. In fact, we're reaching a point now where the rising tobacco tax rights are producing less revenue in some States.

Some people thump their chest and say, Isn't that great. We have less smoking. But if you look at the back end, you see that the wholesalers and the manufacturers are still sending the same number of cigarettes out; we're just not collecting the revenues for it.

I want to offer my gratitude to Mr. SCOTT for his chairmanship on the Crime Subcommittee, through which the bill passed. I also want to express gratitude to many members of the staff who have worked to make not only the bill work, but also the compromises and changes that we made.

Mr. COBLE, for example, was concerned that we wanted to allow some of the smaller test brands to be able to be sent out so market research could be done. We accommodated those concerns. And I think his staff was very, very helpful.

If the Speaker will indulge me, I want to mention some of them by name: Perry Apfelbaum of the Judiciary Committee; and Ameer Gopalani, Jesselyn McCurdy, Kimani Little and Caroline Lynch of the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security; John Mautz of Congressman COBLE's staff; and Joseph Dunn of my staff.

Also, some of the folks in the private sector who helped us craft this bill in a way that doesn't impact legitimate operators: Artie Katz, Lenny Schwartz, and Steve Rosenthal with the New York Association of Wholesale Marketers, who helped enlighten the committee on how the process actually worked; John Hoel and Sarah Knakmuhs with Altria; Eric Lindblom with the Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids; Anne Holloway with the American Wholesale Marketers Association; Lynn Beckwith with the National Association of Convenience Stores; and Laurie McKay with Dickstein Shapiro.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, this bill has nothing to do with whether

cigarettes should be taxed or not, whether tobacco should be taxed or not. The issue is the black market sale of cigarettes and those individuals who fail to pay lawfully imposed taxes on them.

This legislation is supported by the tobacco industry and by law enforcement, the Attorney General, and I urge the adoption of this legislation.

I yield back the balance of my time. Mr. WEINER. I thank Mr. POE again, and I just want to make one other point: that there are colleagues on other committees who have had an interest in this, and they have been working hand-in-hand with the Judiciary Committee.

I will insert an exchange of letters with one of those committees, the Oversight and Reform Committee, at this point in the RECORD.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM,

Washington, DC, May 19, 2009.

Hon. JOHN CONYERS, JR.,
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary, Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN CONYERS: I am writing about H.R. 1676, the "Prevent All Cigarette Trafficking Act of 2009." The Judiciary Committee ordered this measure reported, as amended, on April 28, 2009.

I appreciate your efforts to consult with the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform regarding those provisions of H.R. 1676 that fall within the Oversight Committee's jurisdiction. These provisions relate to the treatment of cigarettes and smokeless tobacco as nonmailable matter and new requirements which will be placed on the U.S. Postal Service as a result.

In the interest of expediting consideration of H.R. 1676, the Oversight Committee will not separately consider relevant provisions of this bill. I would, however, request your support for the appointment of conferees from the Oversight Committee should H.R. 1676 or a similar Senate bill be considered in conference with the Senate. Moreover, this letter should not be construed as a waiver of the Oversight Committee's legislative jurisdiction over subjects addressed in H.R. 1676 that fall within the jurisdiction of the Oversight Committee.

Please include our exchange of letters on this matter in the Congressional Record during consideration of this legislation on the House floor.

Again, I appreciate your willingness to consult the Committee on these matters.

Sincerely,

EDOLPHUS TOWNS,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY,
Washington, DC, May 19, 2009.

Hon. EDOLPHUS TOWNS,
Chairman, Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for your letter regarding your committee's jurisdictional interest in H.R. 1676, the Prevent All Cigarette Trafficking Act of 2009.

I appreciate your willingness to support expediting floor consideration of this important legislation today. I understand and agree that this is without prejudice to your Committee's jurisdictional interests in this or similar legislation in the future. In the event a House-Senate conference on this or

similar legislation is convened, I would support your request for an appropriate number of conferees.

I will include a copy of your letter and this response in the Congressional Record in the debate on the bill. Thank you for your cooperation as we work towards enactment of this legislation.

Sincerely,

JOHN CONYERS, JR.,
Chairman.

I urge support for the bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. WEINER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1676, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

HONORING POLICE OFFICERS AND LAW ENFORCEMENT PROFESSIONALS DURING POLICE WEEK

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 426) honoring police officers and law enforcement professionals during Police Week.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 426

Whereas President John F. Kennedy signed a proclamation declaring May 15th as Peace Officers Memorial Day to honor law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty, and to designate the calendar week in which May 15th occurs as Police Week;

Whereas police officers protect communities across our Nation;

Whereas police officers selflessly put their lives on the line to keep Americans safe;

Whereas police officers perform a variety of duties to pursue justice and maintain public safety;

Whereas in just the last decade, hundreds of police officers were killed in the line of duty, and in just the first four months of 2009 more than 40 officers around the country have made the ultimate sacrifice; and

Whereas police officers and law enforcement personnel have been adversely affected by the current economic situation, yet continue to serve bravely: Now, therefore, be it Resolved, That—

(1) it is the sense of the House of Representatives that—

(A) Police Week provides an opportunity to honor police officers and law enforcement personnel for their selfless acts of bravery;

(B) police officers and law enforcement personnel risk their lives daily to protect Americans; and

(C) police officers and law enforcement personnel who have made the ultimate sacrifice should be remembered and honored;

(2) the House of Representatives honors police officers for their efforts to create safer and more secure communities; and

(3) the House of Representatives expresses its strong support for the Nation's police officers and law enforcement personnel.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the resolution under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Virginia?

There was no objection.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, this resolution honors police officers and law enforcement professionals during Police Week. In 1962, President Kennedy proclaimed the week in which May 15 occurs to be Police Week. For over 40 years, the week of May 15 has continued to be the time to honor men and women in our Nation's law enforcement agencies, who protect our neighborhoods, our homes, and our loved ones.

The men and women who dedicate their careers to our safety do so at the expense of spending long hours away from their own families, putting themselves at great risk—and, in too many instances, making the ultimate sacrifice.

In fact, we have lost over 20,000 officers in the line of duty over the course of our history. Since January 1 of this year, we've lost 48 officers—five since the beginning of this month alone. Yet regardless of the continuing danger, day after day, and year after year, these dedicated professionals continue to make the sacrifices for their communities, without asking for thanks or praise.

And so the law enforcement professionals and police officers who toil in our communities across the Nation deserve our unwavering support and our thankful recognition.

I commend the gentleman from California (Mr. MCNERNEY) for introducing this resolution and for giving the House of Representatives the opportunity to show respect and admiration for our law enforcement professionals. I urge my colleagues to support the resolution.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. POE of Texas. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I would like to thank the gentleman from California (Mr. MCNERNEY) for introducing H. Res. 426, which honors police officers and law enforcement professionals during National Police Week. I'm pleased to cosponsor this resolution that supports the brave men and women who wear the badge, as well as all the professionals who support

them in their mission throughout the country, especially their families.

As they continue to protect and serve, we take a moment to salute them for everything that they do every day, much of which goes unnoticed. We're able to go about our daily routines because officers in small towns and big cities and in rural areas throughout this country stand ready to take those risks on our behalf.

Each year, 50,000—50,000—peace officers are assaulted in the United States. On May 17, 1792, New York City's Deputy Sheriff Isaac Smith became the first recorded police officer to be killed in the line of duty in the United States. Since that time, 19,705 peace officers have been killed while on duty protecting the rest of us.

In 2008, 140 officers died in the line of duty while upholding the values that make this country great—duty, honor, sacrifice. Those values and their sacrifice are a somber reminder that the freedoms that we share do not come without a cost. Of those 140, 10 percent, or 14, were from my home State of Texas.

Sadly, already in 2009, 48 peace officers have died in the line of duty. Once again, 10 percent from the State of Texas. This number includes two additional officers since I spoke on the House floor about peace officers 5 days ago. Those individuals, Sergeant Dulan Earl Murray, Jr. from the Nags Head Police Department in North Carolina, and Deputy Sheriff Tom Wilson from Warren County Sheriff's Department in Mississippi, died over the weekend while on duty.

In 1961, Congress created Peace Officers Memorial Day and designated it to be commemorated each year on May 15. Correspondingly, each year, the President issues a proclamation naming May 15 as National Peace Officers Memorial Day.

I'm proud to sponsor this year's resolution to recognize Peace Officer Memorial Day, which passed the House unanimously in February of this year. Peace Officer Memorial Day takes place during National Police Week, which was held in Washington, D.C. last week.

Many of the families, friends, and colleagues of these fallen officers came to Washington last week to remember them as mothers and fathers, brothers and sisters, sons and daughters, and friends of their communities, guarding all of us.

They came together to celebrate in many ways. They participated in candlelight vigils and torch runs, they broke bread and shared stories, but more importantly, they honored and remembered the fallen. Today, we do as well.

Those officers have no doubt returned to serve their communities while quietly making all of our lives a little better.

We commemorate the 186 officers that died in 2008 and 2009, and all law enforcement officers that have died in

the line of duty while representing every State, the District of Columbia, U.S. territories, as well as Federal law enforcement and the military police.

Today, we thank them the best way that we can in the House of Representatives. I urge people across the country to similarly thank them for their service with a simple smile or a handshake or a thank you.

I urge my colleagues to support this important resolution.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman who, prior to coming to Congress, was a law enforcement professional himself, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. STUPAK).

Mr. STUPAK. I thank the gentleman for yielding. And I stand today in support of House Resolution 426, a resolution offered by our friend, Mr. MCNERNEY from California. This resolution is to recognize Police Week and all the law enforcement officers across the country that keep us and our communities safe.

As a former city police officer and as a Michigan State police trooper, law enforcement has always been a legislative priority for me. When I was elected to Congress 17 years ago, I was surprised to learn that there was no formal organization within Congress to advocate on behalf of law enforcement. So I founded the Law Enforcement Caucus with the help of then-Democratic caucus chairman STENY HOYER.

Today, the Law Enforcement Caucus has 110 members and we hold regular briefings throughout the year. I'm proud to be cochair of the caucus, along with my friend DAVE REICHERT, the gentleman from the State of Washington.

As you know, this is a time of great change for the law enforcement community. During an economic downturn, there's an increase in crime and in the drug trade. Many in Washington have paid a lot of attention to the integral role that law enforcement plays in protecting our country. But the Federal Government has to do more than talk about the problem. We must also provide resources, training, and equipment to ensure that it is there for local law enforcement.

We made a strong commitment to this goal by providing \$3 billion in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 for law enforcement programs. This effort must continue as we consider fiscal year 2010 appropriation bills. After all, our law enforcement officers are on the front lines every day, keeping us and our communities safe.

I urge my colleagues to not only support this resolution honoring Police Week, but support law enforcement programs by fully funding the Byrne Justice Assistance Grants, the Community Oriented Policing Services grants, and many Federal programs that have gone underfunded when the need is ever growing.

Mr. POE of Texas. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the sponsor of this important resolution, the gentleman from California (Mr. McNERNEY).

Mr. McNERNEY. I rise in proud support of H. Res. 426. I thank the gentleman from Texas for his words and support. We're basically here to honor police officers and law enforcement professionals.

I introduced this resolution last Tuesday in recognition of National Police Week. H. Res. 426 commends police officers and law enforcement professionals for the hard and often dangerous work they perform to keep us safe.

Almost 47 years ago, in October of 1962, President John F. Kennedy signed a resolution designating May 15 as Peace Officers Memorial Day and the week in which it occurs as Police Week. Since then, police officers have held events during Police Week honoring their fallen brethren and officers who worked tirelessly to keep us safe.

□ 1345

May 15 just passed, but our law enforcement officials should be celebrated daily.

So far this year more than 40 officers from around the country have lost their lives in the line of duty. Four officers from California, including Sergeants Mark Dunakin of Tracy and Ervin Romans of Danville, both from my district, were killed earlier this year. My thoughts and prayers are with the families and loved ones of these dedicated officers.

In honor of their memory and in thanks for the hard work and selfless dedication of our Nation's police officers and law enforcement professionals, I urge my colleagues to support this resolution. These brave men and women deserve our respect and gratitude. I further encourage my colleagues to support our law enforcement professionals not just during Police Week but every day of the year.

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from Virginia and the gentleman from California for proposing this legislation. Also, we need to constantly remember that we here in the United States Capitol are protected daily by the Capitol Police, two of whom just a few years ago gave their lives protecting Members of Congress.

I would also like to introduce into the RECORD the names of the 19 police officers from the State of Texas who have been killed in 2008 and 2009.

In 2008, 140 peace officers were killed. Of these fallen officers, 14 were from Texas:

Deputy Constable David Joubert, Harris County Constable's Office—Precinct 7, TX, EOW: Sunday, January 13, 2008.

Police Officer Matthew B. Thebeau, Corpus Christi Police Department, TX, EOW: Sunday, January 20, 2008.

Corporal Harry Thielepape, Harris County Constable's Office—Precinct 6, TX, EOW: Wednesday, February 20, 2008.

Senior Corporal Victor A. Lozada Sr., Dallas Police Department, TX, EOW: Friday, February 22, 2008.

Trooper James Scott Burns, Texas Department of Public Safety—Texas Highway Patrol, TX, EOW: Tuesday, April 29, 2008.

Police Officer Everett William Dennis, Carthage Police Department, TX, EOW: Tuesday, June 3, 2008.

Sergeant Barbara Jean Shumate, Texas Department of Criminal Justice, TX, EOW: Friday, June 13, 2008.

Police Officer Gary Gryder, Houston Police Department, TX, EOW: Sunday, June 29, 2008.

Detective Tommy Keen, Harris County Sheriff's Department, TX, EOW: Monday, September 15, 2008.

Game Warden George Harold Whatley Jr., Texas Parks and Wildlife Department—Law Enforcement Division, TX, EOW: Friday, October 10, 2008.

Sheriff Brent Lee, Trinity County Sheriff's Department, TX, EOW: Thursday, November 27, 2008.

Police Officer Robert Davis, San Antonio Police Department, TX, EOW: Monday, December 1, 2008.

Police Officer Timothy Abernethy, Houston Police Department, TX, EOW: Sunday, December 7, 2008.

Police Officer Mark Simmons, Amarillo Police Department, TX, EOW: Wednesday, December 17, 2008.

In 2009, 48 officers have died in the line of duty. 5 of these officers were from Texas:

Senior Corporal Norman Smith, Dallas Police Department, TX, EOW: Tuesday, January 6, 2009.

Detention Officer Cesar Arreola, El Paso County Sheriff's Office, TX, EOW: Sunday, January 18, 2009.

Lieutenant Stuart J. Alexander, Corpus Christi Police Department, TX, EOW: Wednesday, March 11, 2009.

Sergeant Randy White, Bridgeport Police Department, TX, EOW: Thursday, April 2, 2009.

Deputy Sheriff D. Robert Harvey, Lubbock County Sheriff's Department, TX, EOW: Sunday, April 26, 2009.

I yield back the balance of my time. Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the gentleman from Texas, the gentleman from California and the gentleman from Michigan for their strong support of this resolution. I urge my colleagues to support it.

I yield back the balance of my time. The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 426.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

HELPING FAMILIES SAVE THEIR HOMES ACT OF 2009

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill (S. 896) to prevent mortgage foreclosures and enhance mortgage credit availability, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the Senate bill.

The text of the Senate bill, as amended, is as follows:

S. 896

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

DIVISION A—PREVENTING MORTGAGE FORECLOSURES

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This division may be cited as the "Helping Families Save Their Homes Act of 2009".

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents of this division is the following:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

TITLE I—PREVENTION OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURES

Sec. 101. Guaranteed rural housing loans.

Sec. 102. Modification of housing loans guaranteed by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Sec. 103. Additional funding for HUD programs to assist individuals to better withstand the current mortgage crisis.

Sec. 104. Mortgage modification data collecting and reporting.

Sec. 105. Neighborhood Stabilization Program Refinements.

TITLE II—FORECLOSURE MITIGATION AND CREDIT AVAILABILITY

Sec. 201. Servicer safe harbor for mortgage loan modifications.

Sec. 202. Changes to HOPE for Homeowners Program.

Sec. 203. Requirements for FHA-approved mortgagees.

Sec. 204. Enhancement of liquidity and stability of insured depository institutions to ensure availability of credit and reduction of foreclosures.

Sec. 205. Application of GSE conforming loan limit to mortgages assisted with TARP funds.

Sec. 206. Mortgages on certain homes on leased land.

Sec. 207. Sense of Congress regarding mortgage revenue bond purchases.

TITLE III—MORTGAGE FRAUD TASK FORCE

Sec. 301. Sense of the Congress on establishment of a Nationwide Mortgage Fraud Task Force.

TITLE IV—FORECLOSURE MORATORIUM PROVISIONS

Sec. 401. Sense of the Congress on foreclosures.

Sec. 402. Public-Private Investment Program; Additional Appropriations for the Special Inspector General for the Troubled Asset Relief Program.

Sec. 403. Removal of requirement to liquidate warrants under the TARP.

Sec. 404. Notification of sale or transfer of mortgage loans.

TITLE V—FARM LOAN RESTRUCTURING

Sec. 501. Congressional Oversight Panel special report.

TITLE VI—ENHANCED OVERSIGHT OF THE TROUBLED ASSET RELIEF PROGRAM

Sec. 601. Enhanced oversight of the Troubled Asset Relief Program.

TITLE VII—PROTECTING TENANTS AT FORECLOSURE ACT

Sec. 701. Short title.

Sec. 702. Effect of foreclosure on preexisting tenancy.

Sec. 703. Effect of foreclosure on section 8 tenancies.

Sec. 704. Sunset.

TITLE VIII—COMPTROLLER GENERAL ADDITIONAL AUDIT AUTHORITIES

Sec. 801. Comptroller General additional audit authorities.